



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 11, 2006 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Finley.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Tom Brower, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Jeff Apaka, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Jack Myers, Bert Benevinto, David Chen, Gerald Katahara, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: H. Richard, Pat Lee (Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Clyde Shimizu (Parsons, Brinkerhoff), Gail Pacheco (Laniakea Inc.), Georgette Sanchez; Lt. Loudermilk, Major McCaulley, Detective Williams (HPD-Waikiki Station), Emily Reed, Michael Hu, Bob and Nancy Kirkham, Helen Carroll, Stefan, Nikk Ty-Tompkins, Kelly Barnes, Eric La'a (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Daniel Chun, Pat Winston, Representative Anne Stevens, Corey Dillman, Senator Gordon Trimble, Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Trimble's Office), Lori Wingard and Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Michelle Matson, Daisy Murai, Bob Steiger, Wolfgang Schmidt, Norman Duncan, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Louis Xigoginis, Bob Shikam, Rex Saunders, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

FILLING OF VACANCY, ONE SEAT IN SUBDISTRICT 2 – Chair Finley previously announced to Board members that Lawrence Connell has resigned from the Board due to having to relocate to the Mainland. A person who expressed interest in filling the seat was not present at this time. **Gruntz moved and Flood seconded to defer the filling of the vacancy 30 days. The motion carried unanimously.**

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT - No representative was present at this time.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Lt. Loudermilk reported statistics for June showed a substantial decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts of motor vehicles from 22 in May to 8 in June. Statistics for other crimes remained about the same. Also reported were 35 citations issued for loud music, 27 for loud mufflers, and 152 for illegal camping.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Thanks were expressed for the arrests of persons for controlled substances.
2. In response to Myers, persons issued citations for illegal camping must appear before a judge, who sets the fines. No information was available on the amount of fines collected.
3. Apaka suggested establishment of a left-turn traffic signal phase from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street. Traffic backs up and police are issuing citations for illegal turns.
4. In response to Apaka, a number of police officers are on foot patrol in Waikiki as part of their training.



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5. In response to Apaka, officers are also monitoring various locations for drivers violating crosswalk laws.
6. In response to Flood, removing a person from private property, such as a vacant lot for illegal camping requires police to contact the property owner for confirmation about whether or not the person found on the property has permission to be on the property. Only the property owner can request someone be removed. Even if the property is posted as "no trespassing" the property owner must still be contacted.

Detective Williams made a booklet "Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft" prepared by the Federal Trade Commission. The booklet provides tips on how to protect yourself against identity theft, and what to do if you become a victim.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Benevento expressed concern that local property tax records, including names and addresses, unlike other states, is too readily available on-line, and that this could contribute to identity theft. Detective Williams noted that this information is part of the public record and by itself, is not an identity theft problem.
2. In response to Brower, it was reiterated that police officers have to contact the property owner to determine if a person believed to be trespassing is authorized to be on the property.
3. Camping in public parks is illegal, the ATV (all terrain vehicle) detail and regular patrol officers do monitor parks and issue citations, but cannot remove persons unless the person is wanted on an outstanding warrant.
4. Abandoned vehicles can be reported to police who will mark the tires, check to see if it has been removed with 24-hours, if not, police refer further to the City's Abandoned Vehicles Section.
5. In response to Among, persons seen living in cars can be reported to police.

Major McCaulley provided additional information: a) the number of persons so cited last month, and b) that a new law making it easier to remove abandoned vehicles has overburdened tow companies who do not have storage capacity to handle more vehicles.

6. In response to Gruntz, Major McCaulley reported that HPD uses nationally used criteria to classify a case as being closed.
7. Among requested that officers be reminded to provide their names and badge numbers to persons requesting this information.

Major McCaulley, Lt. Loudermilk, and Detective Williams were thanked for attending the meeting. Simpson, Merz, arrived during the above portion of the meeting.

7:22 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chen reported for the month of May, the Operating Account balance was \$262.49, the Publicity Account balance was \$657.70, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – No representative was present.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS:

SEWER PROJECT CONTRACTOR'S YARD – Emily Reed reported that the contractor's yard on Aloha Drive for the Waikiki Sewer project is creating problems with dust from debris being stockpiled on the site affecting neighboring residents, and trailers parked on site she believes are not part of the project and should be removed. She is following up with the contractor on her own.

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DRIVERS LACKING ALOHA SPIRIT - Wolfgang Schmidt reported problems he has been encountering with tour bus and limousine drivers blocking traffic and lacking the Aloha Spirit, and even challenging him to fights. He also noted concerns about speeding and skateboarders along Ala Wai Boulevard.

Myers and Among suggested getting names of company vehicles, license numbers, and other information, and writing the companies.

HONOLULU TAVERN EXPANSION – Pat Winston reported that the Honolulu Tavern, 417 Nohonani Avenue, has tripled the size of its premises and residents in the residential portion of the building are concerned about adverse impacts, and that the expansion by-passed a community comment process.

ALA WAI BOULEVARD BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT – Nikk Ty-Tompkins expressed opposition to the Ala Wai Beautification project and suggested that the sewer project provides the opportunity to remove it. Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, reported there is no money in the budget to address this project.

REDEVELOPMENT OF SMALL PARCELS - Gail Pacheco, owner of 369 Hobron Lane, reported on plans to seek rezoning of this small parcel to mixed use, to allow redevelopment with affordable units and personal residences. Kelly Barnes, owner of a small parcel on Kaiolu Street, reported also seeking rezoning to redevelop the small parcel. They reported their properties' size, and Waikiki Special District requirements, limit how they can develop them, and current use is out of character with surrounding development.

In response to Grutz and Benevento, Pacheco and Barnes reported they have not been approached by developers to acquire their properties.

Pacheco and Barnes were thanked for attending the meeting.

7:50 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE:

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE – Keith Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, reported phase one of the project, installation of the temporary by-pass line in the Ala Wai Canal, has completed 3500 feet of the 5000 foot line which will be submerged when completed. Five pumps, to be located along the Ala Wai Canal, are to be connected to the by-pass line. The line will also be connected across the Atkinson Drive entrance to Ala Moana Park to the pump station. The work is scheduled to be completed August 1.

The next phase will involve microtunnelling of two, 1200 foot tunnels under Kaiolu Street. There is no timetable on the construction of the new, permanent line at this time.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Myers, there should be minimal disruption to traffic on Kaiolu Street. Myers suggested that Launiu Street be converted from one-way, to two-way traffic, as an alternate route. Rollman will follow up on the traffic management plans.
2. Chair Finley reported at the last Waikiki Improvement Association meeting, submerging of the temporary by-pass line was announced.
3. In response to Erteschik, follow up will be done with the contractor about residents' complaints about the contractor's yard on Aloha Drive.
4. Follow up will be done on what type of project is being done on Kalakaua Avenue, mauka of Kapiolani Boulevard.
5. Stefan reported talking with contractors removing tree planters on side streets, including Keoniana, Kuamoo, Hamahana, Olohana, and Launiu streets, who told him that removal is costing \$90,000 and the installation cost \$80,000. Rollman noted there may have been a problem with the design requiring

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removal, and will follow up. Stefan suggested charging the costs to the designer. Apaka noted the installation of the trees caused a loss of on-street parking.

6. Gruntz expressed thanks for the painting of new street line markings in Ala Moana Park.
7. Among suggested opening of a bus only roadway near the Hawaiian Monarch hotel to regular traffic.
8. Adams requested Ala Wai Boulevard, diamond head of the sewer project area, be resurfaced. Benevento requested information on when Ala Wai Boulevard will be resurfaced. Rollman will follow up.
9. Helen Carroll requested lane markings on Ala Wai Boulevard be repainted.
10. The temporary by-pass line will be pressure tested, plans are to use it only if necessary during construction of the new line. Chair Finley noted the line is made of the same material used for the by-pass line on Kalanianaʻole Highway in Kuliouou. That line has been hit by cars and suffered no damage.
11. It was suggested that the previous Administration be charged for damages it did to Waikiki.
12. Pool requested improving maintenance of grassed areas and water features along Kuhio Beach. Rollman will follow up.
13. Flood suggested shower heads at Kuhio Beach be welded on to prevent theft.
14. Apaka requested replacement of dead coconut trees in various locations.

Rollman was thanked for the update.

8:10 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Lori Wingard, from Councilmember Djou's Office, reported the following:

1. The Council held a special meeting last Friday regarding the funding of \$5 million for the State to collect the general excise tax increase. The Mayor wanted the Council to authorize the expenditure at this meeting, but the Council will follow its regular procedures for handling bills. The matter next goes to a committee meeting on July 26.
2. Bill 84, regarding limiting the number of parades in Waikiki, will be discussed at the Council's Transportation and Planning Committee meeting, July 25.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Gruntz suggested that the Council's investigation into the sewer spill include other possible wrongdoings by the previous Administration.

Wingard was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble distributed copies of his newsletter which includes a voters' questionnaire. Results will be available at the next Board meeting.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Brower's question about OHA's plans to develop its headquarters on the waterfront, Senator Trimble stated he feels the land should be reserved for harbor operations.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

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REPRESENTATIVE ANNE STEVENS – Representative Stevens distributed her monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The report includes a list of bills the Governor vetoed. Additional material is available on the Governor's explanation about why bills were vetoed.
2. There will be a meeting about the National Institutes of Health Pacific Regional Biosafe Laboratory project, tomorrow, 6:00 p.m., John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted that a community graffiti clean up project is needed.
2. The Governor vetoed Senate Bill 2076, relating to leasehold conversion. No detailed explanation was reviewed at this time.

Representative Stevens was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Eric La'a, from Representative Nishimoto, distributed the monthly report and was available for questions.

La'a was thanked for attending the meeting.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Chair Finley reported Marsha Weinert was unable to attend the meeting.

WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION – Rick Egged, from the Waikiki Improvement Association, reported the following:

1. Work is being done with a visiting consultant and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources on beach erosion, sand replacement/beach expansion.
2. Work is also being done with the City on expediting building permitting processes, delays have adverse economic impacts on development in Waikiki.
3. A study is in progress to determine the amount of taxes Waikiki generates in comparison to the amount of government services Waikiki receives.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Merz expressed thanks for the study on taxes generated.
2. It was noted that resurfacing of Ala Wai Boulevard was supposed to be done two years ago.
3. Adams noted the need for Waikiki to be in great condition as it's appearance is important to the visitor industry.
4. In response to Benevento, the study will include the Transient Accommodation Tax.
5. In response to Flood, property owners are responsible for maintenance of vacant properties.
6. Gruntz requested statistics on the number of cars rented by time share residents in comparison to hotel guests. Egged will follow up, but noted past studies have shown that time share residents rent cars less frequently than hotel guests. Carol Sword reported her experience confirms Egged's statement.
7. Poole commented on the need for sand replacement on the beaches and noted it used to be done regularly.

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8. Benevento suggested a walkway along the beaches be created. Egged noted there is no room to create one.

Egged was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:35 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

RAIL TRANSIT IN WAIKIKI - The motion from the May meeting, that the Board opposes the Waikiki spur line, was brought to the floor at this time. There were no objections.

Clyde Shimizu, from Parsons, Brinkeroff, a consultant to the City on the Honolulu Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project, reported a series of community update meetings on the alternatives analysis study, were held last month. The alternative analysis should be completed in November, and the City Council will select the preferred alternative by the end of this year from the possible alternatives: a) no build, b) transportation system management, c) managed lanes (HOT lanes), d) fixed guideway.

Cost of the Waikiki spur line, along Kalakaua Avenue to, and along Kuhio Avenue, is estimated at \$200 million. Ridership estimates are that this segment would be twice that of the segment serving the University of Hawaii.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Gruntz, the Waikiki segment would have three stops, one near the Waikiki Convention Center, and two along Kuhio Avenue. The study is at the halfway point at this time.
2. In response to Myers, there have been several informational flyers distributed by the City Department of Transportation Services. The current flyer includes information on the guideways, previous ones included information on routes and alternatives, and were provided to Myers.
3. Myers suggested that the system's cars be able to accommodate passengers with luggage, surfboards, bicycles, etc. It was noted TheBus currently limits passengers to carrying only what they can hold on their laps.
4. In response to Among, ridership projections are still being determined for the different alternatives, and the Federal government will review the study.
5. In response to Benevento, the managed lane would run from the H-1/H-2 interchange to Iwilei.
6. Merz suggested the Waikiki segment be built at-grade, rather than elevated.
7. In response to Peters, the Waikiki segment would be approximately 1.5 miles long, from the Waikiki Convention Center to its terminus on Kuhio Avenue. Peters noted his opposition to the Waikiki segment due to aesthetics, noise, and adverse impacts during construction.
8. In response to Benevento, computer models, using locally obtained data, are used in making ridership projections.
9. Erteschik stated he opposes this segment.
10. In response to Brower, more details on cost estimates and ridership projections will be in the completed study. It was also noted the Waikiki segment is not a new proposal.
11. Adams suggested the need for additional motions after the vote on the motion on the floor.
12. Gruntz requested input from residents present.
13. Sword distributed an informational newspaper article on this subject, and opposed the project.

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14. Nancy Kirkenham, a former Bay Area resident, opposed the Waikiki segment, and noted problems BART has with maintenance costs, noise, etc.
15. Shimizu reported no construction timetable is available at this time.
16. Both better management of TheBus and this system are needed.
17. Matson expressed concern about operating costs.
18. Providing only two stops in Waikiki was questioned, the distance to reach the stops almost makes it more convenient to walk than to ride the system.
19. Merz suggested that the Waikiki community could regret not having a segment, noting a Washington D.C. area community opposed being connected to a system, got its wish, then later regretted it.

The motion carried, 15-1. Merz opposed.

Everyone was thanked for their participation in this portion of the meeting.

9:10 p.m.

BILL 84, PARADE BILL – Flood moved and Gruntz seconded, that the Board supports Bill 84, with a preference for 38 events. Stan Fichtman, from Councilmember Djou's Office, reported this bill was introduced in 2004, and a lawsuit was filed by PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) opposing the bill, delaying the bill's advancing through its process. The lawsuit has been resolved, and the bill has passed second reading. The bill, in its original and two proposed alternatives, limit the number of parades and street closure events in categories of: a) cap, b) Mayor's exemptions, c) grandfathered, and, d) First Amendment. The original bill provided for 28 total events, the other alternatives limit to either 48 or 38 total events. Grandfathered parades would be those with a history of being held for 15 or more years, there would be no limit on First Amendment events. The bill will next be heard in the Transportation and Planning Committee meeting on July 25.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Peters supported a limit of 38 events.
2. In response to Adams, Brunch on the Beach, would count as an event. Adams also requested specific criteria for the different categories.
3. Erteschik suggested shorter parade routes, noting most stage at Ft. DeRussy and end at Kapiolani Park. Adams also suggested alternate routes, such as into Kakaako. It was noted some parades start at Ala Moana Park.
4. Benevento and others noted parade organizers could always claim their event was a First Amendment event, getting around limits, real limits are needed.
5. In response to Brower and Among, criteria for the different categories is in the text of the bill.
6. Merz noted the bill is too weak, there are too many exceptions.
7. In response to Myers, there were approximately 60 events last year.

The motion carried, 13-3. Apaka, Benevento, Merz opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Deferred.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2006 MINUTES – The following correction was made:

Page 5, third paragraph, the vote should read "Yea:...Myers, Chen, Benevento..."

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The minutes were approved as corrected.

CHAIR REPORT: Deferred.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Deferred.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant